

DATE: March 31, 2010

TO: Joe Chavez, Public Service Officer, Yuba Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest
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CC: OHVinfo@parks.ca.gov

FROM: Steve Davis, High Sierra Motorcycle Club
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RE: Reference Number G09-02-20-D01

The High Sierra Motorcycle Club supports the proposed Butcher Ranch Trail Safety and Enhancement Project.

The Butcher Ranch Trail begins at the top of a smooth, steep jeep road which winds its way down and around several blind corners and horizons. An aggressive user builds speed rapidly. Stopping distance exceeds sight distance quickly. Most users go downhill on the trail, but two way traffic is common, as are near collisions. Developing a short single track trail segment would provide segregation between four wheeled vehicles and other users. Properly designed and constructed, speeds would be controlled by terrain and pitch. Sight distances would improve due to the route design and lower speeds.

Rerouting the existing jeep road would eliminate the steep, erosion prone segment of road, creating a sustainable, safer 4x4 experience in its place.

The Tahoe National Forest has done an outstanding job managing the trail system in this area. The Downieville trail network has become an excellent example of high quality, sustainable, multiple use trails. The number of users of all types continues to grow.

Developing one of the premier trails in this network to handle increased use makes sense. Providing a safer trail environment while mitigating existing problems makes sense. Enhancing the trail user experience on this very popular route makes sense.

With largely volunteer labor the Butcher Ranch Trail Safety and Enhancement Project will make a long term improvement to a route that is enjoyed by a large number of OHV and other users every year. This modest grant request will provide excellent value over the long term

Our membership encourages the OHMVR division to look favorably on this grant request.

Thank you,

Steve Davis

High Sierra Motorcycle Club